



Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

Fiscal Note

Drafting Number:	LLS 24-0209	Date:	February 8, 2024
Prime Sponsors:	Rep. Vigil Sen. Jaquez Lewis	Bill Status:	House Trans., Hous., & Local Govt.
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Bill Topic: **CORONER QUALIFICATIONS**

Summary of Fiscal Impact:	<input type="checkbox"/> State Revenue	<input type="checkbox"/> State Transfer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local Government
	<input type="checkbox"/> State Expenditure	<input type="checkbox"/> TABOR Refund	<input type="checkbox"/> Statutory Public Entity

The bill requires certification standards for coroners in counties with populations greater than 150,000, and allows smaller counties to impose standards if they choose. The bill may increase local government expenditures beginning in FY 2024-25.

Appropriation Summary: No appropriation is required.

Fiscal Note Status: The fiscal note reflects the introduced bill.

Summary of Legislation

Currently, county coroners must be residents of the county they serve and have a high school diploma or college degree. Coroners must also obtain certification in basic death investigation from the Colorado Coroners Association or another training provider within a year of appointment.

This bill requires coroners in counties with populations greater than 150,000 to hold national certifications. A county coroner must either be a death investigator certified by the American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators or a forensic pathologist certified by the American Board of Pathology. Counties with a population of less than 150,000 may impose these standards with a majority vote of their board of county commissioners.

Local Government

The fiscal note assumes that certification standards will apply to county coroners currently in office. For larger counties, costs may increase if the county must pay for their coroner to obtain the necessary training to meet the certification required in the bill. The training to become a certified death investigator costs about \$400. The fiscal note assumes most coroners in affected counties currently meet this standard and any impact will be minimal. Similar, smaller counties may have these training costs if they choose to apply the new certification requirement.

If the certification standards apply to new county coroners in future election cycles, there are no cost impacts to counties, as a candidate for coroner must ensure compliance with the standards prior to seeking office, presumably at the candidate's expense.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature.

State and Local Government Contacts

Counties	County Coroners	Law
Public Health and Environment		

The revenue and expenditure impacts in this fiscal note represent changes from current law under the bill for each fiscal year. For additional information about fiscal notes, please visit the [General Assembly website](#).